



Florida—Community Programs

Strategic Partners / Community Building

USDA Rural Development Helps Expand Educational Opportunities in Rural Florida Communities

Outline Of Need:

Berkley Accelerated Middle School is a non-profit charter school through the Florida Department of Education and is funded through the local county school district. Since 2004 the school has offered kindergarten through eighth grade classes. The school has received an “A” grade from the State of Florida Department of Education since its inception.

Due to space limitations, the highly successful school maintained a wait-list of 250 students located in primarily unincorporated areas of Auburndale, Polk City and Lake Alfred, Fla. School leaders realized that without adequate classroom and operating space, the school would be unable to meet existing and future educational needs in the surrounding communities.

How Rural Development Helped:

USDA Rural Development approved a \$3,000,000 Community Facilities Guaranteed Loan through 1st

Fast Facts

Program: Community Facilities

Investment: \$3,000,000 Loan Guarantee

Congressional District: 10

Partners: Berkley Accelerated Middle School, Inc., and 1st Manatee Bank

Demographics: Rural Polk County

Impact: Over 200 additional middle schoolers will have access to educational opportunities offered at the school.



Construction of a new school building will increase educational opportunities for rural Polk County, Fla. middle schoolers.

Manatee Bank in Bradenton, Fla., to provide the necessary funding for expansion of the school.

The Results:

With financial assistance from Rural Development, Berkley Accelerated Middle School is constructing a two-story school building that features nine classrooms, two computer labs, a science lab and supporting space to include restrooms, storage spaces and a covered exterior gathering area. The expanded facility will increase the school's capacity to 600 students as well as providing more space and facilities for existing students.

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